

in memory

OF DC FACULTY MEMBERS, TRUSTEE

Each generation of Defiance College students has individuals that touch their lives. Over the past several months, the College has learned of the deaths of four former faculty members, a current band director, and a trustee.



Dr. Noreen Schaefer-Faix

NOREEN SCHAEFER-FAIX

Former faculty member Dr. Noreen Schaefer-Faix died June 16 at her home in Defiance. Just before she died she was planning on gathering a group of friends to celebrate life even in the midst of her struggle with the cancer that was overtaking her. She was insistent that people talk generously toward one another and find the good in each moment.

Schaefer-Faix arrived at Defiance College in 1997 and taught here until 2010. She earned a Ph.D. in communication studies from Kent State University, a master's degree from John Carroll University, and a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Kent State University. She taught from kindergarten to higher education and held permanent Ohio certificates in several fields. She loved to travel and had visited Japan, Europe, China, and all 50 states.

She is survived by her children, Honora Handley of Atlanta, Eileen Slattery of Denver, and Phillip (Tripp) Faix III of San Francisco; four grandchildren; and a sister, Joan Zallnick. A funeral mass was held June 21 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, and she was buried in Euclid, Ohio.

HENRY DIEHL

Professor Emeritus Henry Diehl, died July 17 at CHP Defiance Area In-Patient Hospice Center. The past 18 years since his "retirement" from DC, Diehl had a tremendous impact on Defiance by his insistence that people be involved and active. As an example, two of his ongoing passions were the local annual CROP Walk, which was held in his name this year, and his continued efforts to keep before his friends, neighbors, church, and this campus the ongoing genocide in Darfur which gets lost in the news cycles. Henry's life fully exemplified the spirit of service and its vital importance to a community and the world.

A native of Springfield, Ohio, Diehl earned a bachelor of arts degree in math from Oberlin College and a master's degree at Ohio State University. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War before returning to OSU to work on a doctorate. It was at OSU that he met his future wife, Johanna. The couple married, and Henry accepted a position at Southern Union College, and later, at Wittenberg University.

In 1962, the couple and two young sons headed to Ghana as missionaries.

Following is an excerpt, reprinted with permission, from the eulogy delivered by the Rev. Dr. William Nirote at Henry's funeral:

When the family arrived at their destination in Ghana, they were met with a live chicken as a welcome gift. Jo prepared the chicken but the boys would not eat it. For the family, the daily lunch was rice with whatever else Jo could find to put in it. Henry would teach at the Mawuli School, a secondary sixth form school. Henry would also be the house father for students living at the Wilberforce House. The students at



Henry Diehl

the Wilberforce House affectionately called Henry, "Uncle Henry," and occasionally so did Henry's sons.

As the house father Henry would lead a prayer group and guide the young boys when they had problems. One mother was so appreciative of Henry's work with her son, she walked for miles to give to Henry and Jo three tiny eggs she carried in her hand. One of Henry's proudest accomplishments was when his students took the entrance exam to get into the university. Every student passed the entrance exam.

Henry always wanted a daughter and so he and Jo had another son Kwasi in 1963, and another son Kwame in 1966, and finally, Debra in 1968. Jo said, "That's it!"

Henry and Jo's mission assignment was supposed to be three years and then they would return to the United States. Henry spent those first three years teaching. He was invited to return to Ghana in a new position as a liaison between the church, the mission, and the government of Ghana. Henry and Jo and their five children made the journey back to Ghana. In Ghana, Henry loved the culture of drumming and dancing. He didn't have to compete academically with the "publish or perish" mind set. He loved the week-long Easter celebration and Easter caroling. He loved the people and made many friends. He loved traveling and took the family on a cruise and went on a trip to Timbuktu with some friends. Henry left Africa, but Africa never left Henry.

The Diehls arrived in Defiance in 1969 with Henry's appointment as a mathematics professor. He was active on campus, in the community, and at St. John United Church of Christ. He served with CROP, the Heifer Project, the Overground Railroad, the UCC Board for World Ministries, the Defiance Democratic Central Committee, and the Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission. He is survived by his wife, Johanna; daughter, Debra (Peter) Lenhart

of Defiance; sons, Gregory (Laurel) of Watertown, Mass., Kwame (Amanda) of Juneau, Alaska, and Kwasi of Eugene, Oregon; 12 grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Jean Diehl. He was preceded in death by a son, Steve, and brother, Warren.



Bill Curtis

BILL CURTIS

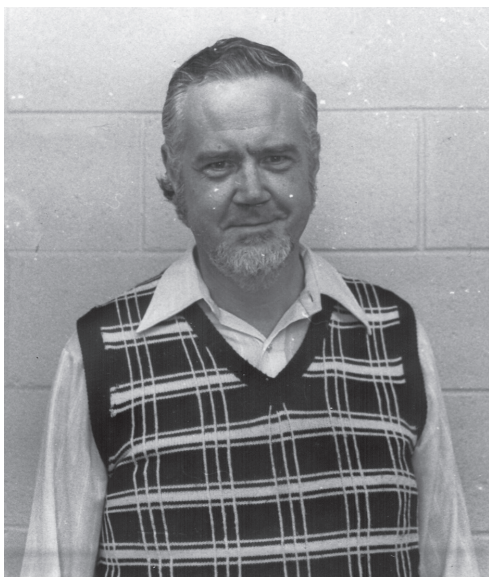
Bill Curtis, director of the College's theater and instructor of speech and theater from 1966 to 1974, died Aug. 14 at his home in South Carolina. Curtis was recently honored by a group of his former DC students who made possible the refurbishing of a Bible that had been retrieved from the rubble of the Defiance Hall fire in the 1960s. The Bible is back in Defiance Hall with a plaque commemorating Curtis's impact on those students' lives.

In addition to teaching theater and speech classes at Defiance, Curtis directed more than 40 shows at the College sharing his knowledge and love of the arts to new generations of eager young thespians. Professor Curtis directed summer stock at a repertory theater on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in 1968 and 1969 and directed municipal outdoor pageants throughout the South and the Midwest. He performed in more than 70 productions in summer stock, community theater, film, commercials, television, and at the university level.

He was a prolific writer for stage, television and radio, including for the ABC drama "Family," produced by Leonard Goldberg, Aaron Spelling, and Mike Nichols. Curtis's magnum opus, "Lester Sims Retires Tomorrow," premiered to rave reviews at the

Melrose Theatre in North Hollywood, California, in 1980, and starred George Murdock and Jennifer Rhodes. The play won the LA Weekly Award for Best New Play of 1981. In 1985, "Lester Sims Retires Tomorrow" was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The screenplay of "Lester" adapted by Gerald Berns is in preproduction.

Curtis is survived by his wife, Lynne; daughter, Aimee (Joseph) Carlton; son, John; three grandchildren; and a sister, Barbara Knapp. A celebration of his life was held Sept. 24 in Hilton Head, S.C.



DR. JARRELL O'KELLEY

Professor Emeritus Jarrell O'Kelley, 80, of Kettering, died Nov. 15. He taught English language and literature at Defiance College for 32 years, retiring in 1998.

O'Kelley began his career at Defiance College in 1966 as assistant professor of English. He was promoted to associate professor, and later to the rank of professor. He graduated from Sterling College in 1953 and received a master's degree from the University of Denver in 1958. In 1970, he received a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Dr. O'Kelley is survived by his wife, Doramae; son, Andrew; daughter, Vanessa; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held Dec. 3 in Dayton.



REV. DR. ROGER PERL

Defiance College Board of Trustee member and UCC minister Rev. Dr. Roger Perl, 75, of Tiffin, died Dec. 7.

A 1958 graduate of Heidelberg College, Rev. Perl attended Eden Theological Seminary and was ordained into the ministry. He served United Church of Christ congregations in Crestline and New Bremen and was the Northwestern Ohio Association Minister from 1977 to 1996. Retiring in 1996, he then worked in the national offices in Cleveland and as interim conference minister for the Indiana-Kentucky conference. He served on the board of Back Bay Mission for 10 years and was a member of the Defiance College Board of Trustees for 28 years.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanie; daughters Amy and Emily; and two grandchildren. A memorial service was held Dec. 14.

*I've learned that
people will forget
what you said, people
will forget what you
did, but people will
never forget how you
made them feel.*

-Maya Angelou



DR. VINCE POLCE

Dr. Vince Polce, adjunct faculty and director of the Defiance College Community Band, died Dec. 14, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. He was honored with the Defiance College Pilgrim Medal at commencement ceremonies in 2009.

Dr. Polce spent his entire career in the Defiance community, serving as director of bands at Defiance High School, retiring in 2004. During his tenure, the school's bands received critical acclaim both on the marching field and the concert stage. The DHS Marching Band of Class became known nationwide, with performances at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, the Orange Bowl Parade in Miami, the Hudson Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit, the Peach Bowl in Atlanta and Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.

In 2005, he took over leadership of the Defiance College Community Band, drawing talented musicians from the surrounding area. The group has played annual concerts at a music level never before achieved, often attracting crowds of more than 1,000.

He was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2006 and underwent aggressive chemotherapy and radiation treatments and surgeries, but that didn't keep him from his musical endeavors, planning and leading regular concerts and appearances of the DCCB. He did all of the planning for the band's annual holiday concert held on Dec. 6, just one week before his death.

Dr. Polce is survived by his wife, Donna; daughters Lisa Becher and Jackie Frejkowski; son, Erik Olsson; three grandchildren; and a brother, George Polce. ♦